

# point three

November 1996



THE MAGAZINE OF



## IN THIS ISSUE:

Neighbourhood Initiatives Foundation  
Divisional Development Teams  
Middlesbrough to Wendover Walk

TOC H

## point three

**TOC H** is a Movement of people who seek to build friendships and offer service across the barriers that usually divide us from one another. The basic unit is a group - at best a good cross-section of the local neighbourhood - which meets together regularly, and seeks to serve the community around it.

**TOC H** was founded in 1915 by the Rev PB 'Tubby' Clayton, and since then has been providing opportunities for people to test the Christian way by practical experiment.

This magazine is a forum for ideas about **TOC H** and about the world, as well as a record of **TOC H** service. Its title derives from the Third Point of the **TOC H** compass, which asks us 'to think fairly'. Letters, articles and news items are welcomed and should be addressed to The Editor, *Point three*, at the address below.

Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the **TOC H** Movement.

*Point three* is available from **TOC H** at the address below at 80p per issue, (Free to Members and Builders).

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John Mitchell

Cover:  
Enjoying the **TOC H** playscheme at  
Gilwell Park.

Photo by:  
Laurie Tuckey

The paper used is chlorine-free,  
environmentally friendly

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**THE MAGAZINE OF**  
  
**TOC H**

Reg. Charity No. 211042

**TOC H** brings together people of different ages, viewpoints, races and faiths in mutual understanding. We base all our work on our Christian principles.

## BAD LANGUAGE

It is always uncomfortable to be promoting values which are not fashionable. **TOC H**, as with any other society with a clear 'value base', is always in danger of being seduced by siren voices that suggest such values are out of date, inappropriate, or just plain silly. Often this is a very gradual process, and the only early indication that a change is coming is in our use of language.

Since the start of our Friendship Circles, there has been a firm, and successful, resolve that participants in Circles be known as 'members', and we have consistently refused to use the jargon of social services and call them 'service users' or 'clients'. We have defended this position because we are clear that the relationship members of Circles have with **TOC H** is not meant to be that of service users or clients. Moreover, if it ever becomes that, Friendship Circles will have lost a fundamental insight. The fact that Circle members have repeatedly said that **TOC H** treats them differently, and they see themselves as members, suggests this distinction has been worth defending.

It is sad, therefore, that the Project side of **TOC H** is increasingly failing to resist the same temptation. More and more, children on playschemes, adults with learning difficulties on holidays, old people on outings, and others, are being referred to as the 'client group' - sometimes with inverted commas, sometimes without. What may seem harmless shorthand can, in time, lead to something worse, and it can certainly suggest to outsiders that **TOC H** sees these people as clients. I am sure no project leader would ever use the word to such a 'client' face to face - and yet we will get into deep water if we label people with labels which we then try and hide from them.

Let's drop the word. For one thing, it is another label, and we are surely trying to erode labels. For another, the word 'client' implies that a person is a recipient of a professional service, at arm's length, and with the implicit assumption that the word 'client' and 'friend' are very different. We are about offering friendship and meeting on equal terms - not offering services to clients - so let's not be so lazy that we borrow inappropriate labels from inappropriate places.

John Mitchell

## Welcome

### TO 21 NEW MEMBERS

- Anna Rands *Bridlington Action* • Sylvia Drury, *Broadlands District*
- Gwen Parker *Central Branch* • Maureen Hadley-Ellis *Haywain District*
- Ivy Cox, Betty Driscoll, Lilian Girling, Wilhelmina Williams *Higham Ferrers*
- Russell Woodrow *Hoveton & Wroxham* • Ronald Burgess *Mid Norfolk/Norwich* • Annette Curry, David Fowler, Doreen Smith *New Tees* • Colin Walker *S Regional Project Branch*
- Betty Bullock *St Anne's-on-Sea*
- James W James *Uckfield* • Paul Pugh *Wellingborough Young Ones*
- Nigel Marsh *Ashby de la Zouch* • Michael Ogden *Colwyn Bay*
- Diane Abbott *Winsford* • Paul Haywood *Wyre Forest*

# REMEMBRANCE IN NOVEMBER

**R**emembrance - in the sense that we mean it - is neither an intellectual exercise, nor an emotional indulgence. It is, rather, the renewal of our resolve to do everything humanly possible to prevent the

## AT THE GRAVE OF AN UNKNOWN SOLDIER RAMPARTS CEMETERY, YPRES

Unknown they said ... and so they marked his resting place,  
Unknown ... amongst a million of the dead.  
But the roses know:  
Adorn they not his headstone with their beauty?  
The birds, singing of life eternal, know;  
The wind, the gentle rain, the sun  
Sending glad beams unto the sacred earth -  
they know:  
And whisper to the ear attuned ... your brother!  
You! who stand before his grave  
In sorrow, prayer, or thankful pride  
That he should make such sacrifice for you -  
Your hands are red,  
Your heart is guilty, and your prayers  
Impotent as the drifting smoke.  
If firm resolve starts not within your breast  
That wars shall cease,  
That bloody slaughter, murder man by man,  
Shall pass from this our world  
And peace our God would will  
Shall stay - so that his soul may rest.  
He was your brother!

ANON

(first printed in the Toc H Journal, Nov. 1934)

recurrence of  
such carnage."

A.R. Weston  
1961

## REMEMBRANCE

Stumps of men, they sit propped up in chairs  
On the broad paved terrace, smile at the passers-by,  
Gaze at the view, the finest view in Surrey.  
I toil up the hill, my hand in my father's grasp.  
The face in the chair is too much like my dad,  
Bright blue eyes and stubble. I can't look,  
My father can, and does, and says good-day.

My dad missed Dunkirk. He set fire to his hands,  
They sent him home. Your dad stayed and died,  
Fighting the rearguard action: a glorious death.  
These half-men were trapped, somewhere in the  
middle, And bits of them survive.

They look back at my dad, and smile to see  
One of the lucky buggers, with his girl,  
Whose small wounds healed; are now invisible.

VALERIE ANN SMITH

Harrogate

(from the 1995 Poetry Competition)

## AMO A MI MADRE - I LOVE MY MOTHER (Incident in a home for war orphans, El Salvador)

*Amo a mi madre*  
the teacher has written  
in careful script at the  
head of the page.

*Amo a mi madre*  
the child copies below  
making a's like apples and  
serpentine m's.

*Amo a mi madre*  
the pencil evades  
her clenching twig fingers  
and breaks its point.

*A-m-o-a-n-i-m-a-d-r-e*  
muscles and nerves all strain  
to master the forms and write  
nicely for teacher.

*Amo a mi madre*  
...her mother was shot  
by soldiers with jaguar masks  
hunting guerrillas.

*Amo a mi madre*  
the child undaunted  
writes line after line of love  
for her mother.

*Amo a mi madre*

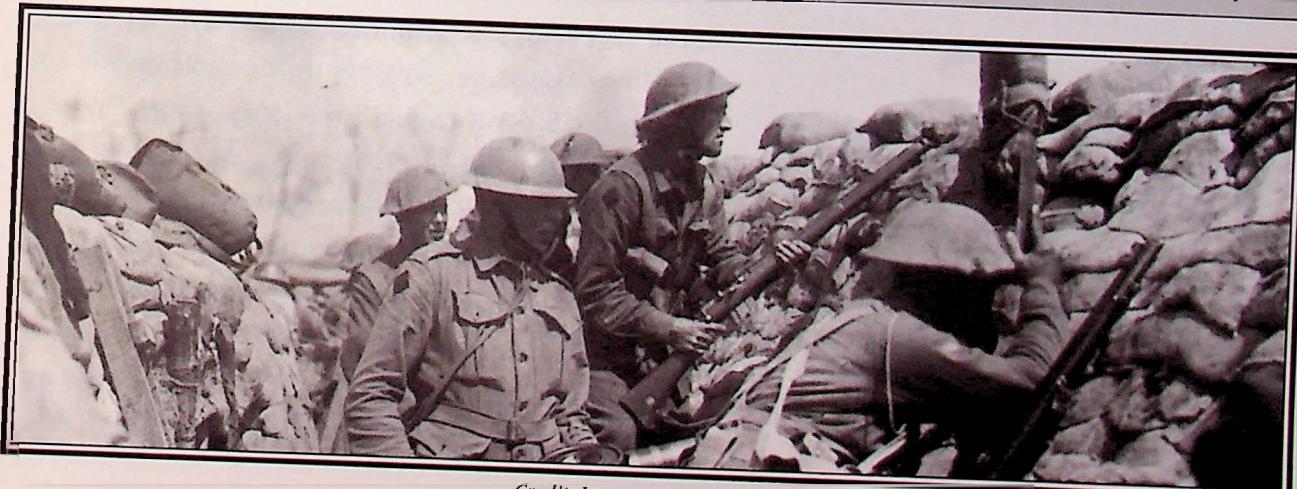
*Amo a mi madre*

*Amo a mi madre*

HEATHER SEDDON

Chingford

(from the 1995 Poetry Competition)



Credit: Imperial War Museum



# NEIGHBOURHOOD INITIATIVES

**Point three in November 1995 carried the text of the address given by our director, Mike Lyddiard, to the A.G.M. of the Neighbourhood Initiatives Foundation. We are happy now to print this reciprocal article by their Information Officer, Lorraine Murray. The N.I.F. is one of the organisations in the 'Real World Coalition' - (see facing page).**

**S**o what do you do for a living?" This innocuous question sends shivers of dread down the spine of all at Neighbourhood Initiatives Foundation, as the reply can take all day! Put simply, "All our work is to one end ... to enable people to play a full part in planning and implementing effective regeneration in their own neighbourhood, and improve their quality of life".

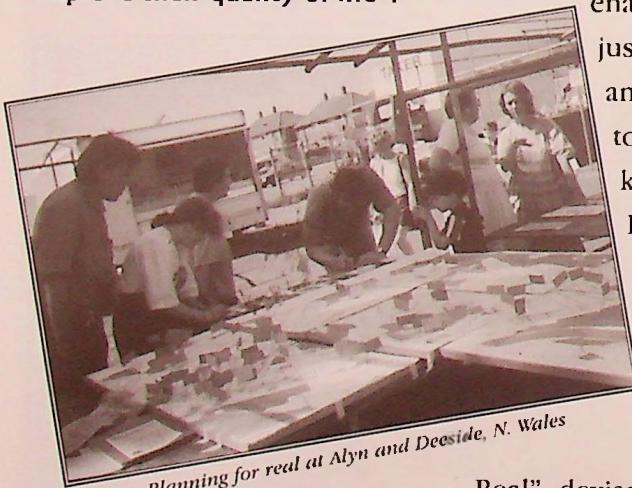
This remit leads to a wide variety of projects, linked by the need for effective consultation, community participation and the building of partnerships. To give a flavour of our work we have recently worked with tenants on: design and development of a community garden in North Wales; usage plans for Kings Cross squares and gardens; proposed redevelopment of housing in Lee Bank, Birmingham, following on from demolition; ascertaining preferred community usage for a 3-acre derelict site in Derby; a small but problem rural estate, setting up a residents' association and beginning to tackle their problems; and Section 16 tenant management work.

In all our work our underlying method is to enable everyone, not just the articulate and self-confident, to make their views known and to listen to the results. For this we use a variety of tools. The best-known is "Planning for Real", devised by our founder,

Dr Tony Gibson OBE.

"Planning for Real" is used to bring out a community's knowledge, opinions and ideas. For the exercise, a 3D model is built of the area, usually by local schoolchildren. The model is large scale - people can recognise their own front door. Made from polystyrene and cardboard, it's sturdy enough to be used without getting damaged. We carry out a lot of contact work in the local community beforehand and display the model where possible, so that by the time public meetings are held everyone knows that something is happening.

At the meetings the model, which can easily be 16ft long, dominates the room. Rather than a platform party putting forward plans and inviting comments, people cluster round the model. Generally, they start by identifying their own home and local landmarks. They then go on to a wider view of their neighbourhood, and recognition of problems and possibilities. We provide a wide selection of option cards, often created for the needs of the specific exercise. Each card has a suggestion on



*Planning for real at Alyn and Deeside, N. Wales*

# NEIGHBOURHOOD INITIATIVES FOUNDATION

it - better lighting; zebra crossing; shrubs; playground; concierge entry; no parking - and each person picks up as many cards as he or she wishes and places them on the model. After prioritising, again using highly visual methods, the result is an accurate picture of residents' concerns and their suggestions for improving the situation. The way is then open to continue working with local people and building partnerships, with the final results being owned by everyone. Over the years, we have adapted this method in many ways.

Variations have been used for strategic planning, road safety projects, planning the design and usage of buildings such as health centres, sports centres and community centres, preparing Estate Action plans and much more besides.

We believe our techniques are innovative, effective and of great benefit in many situations. So we offer training, both pre-defined courses and custom-built, in our methods. One of our objectives is to promote a cascade effect with our training, enabling other people to use and pass on our approach. Part of our success is that we are flexible, independent, and seen to be so. As a small charity, we are not tied to government policy, nor to any local authority. We have no axe to grind - we don't go in recommending tenant management, tenants associations or anything else as a standard approach.

Residents find it refreshing that, as above, we both enable everyone to have their say and listen to the results. How else can community participation work?

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## THE REAL WORLD COALITION

In a move which, one hopes, will significantly affect the future of this country and others, 32 major charities and campaigning organisations have formed the 'Real World Coalition'. It includes charities such as Christian Aid, Oxfam, The World-Wide Fund for Nature, Friends of the Earth, and various other organisations such as the Town and Country

Planning Association and the Employment Policy Institute.

The aim of the coalition is to emphasise the importance of issues of sustainable development, social justice, and democratic renewal in the run-up to, and during, the next General Election. It does not seek to influence the result of the election, but does seek to influence the content of the campaign and the wider political debate.

The 'manifesto' of the Coalition is really contained in a book entitled 'Politics of the Real World', edited by Michael Jacobs. In its central thrust, the book calls into question the dominant economic model of the West - a model based on the belief that competition in a free market, with minimal control and minimal state intervention, will generate wealth which will gradually trickle down to the poorest. The book argues that, even when the model works, insofar as the generation of wealth is concerned, wealth does not trickle down, and more and more people, both at home and abroad, and the UK, are getting poorer, while the few become richer.

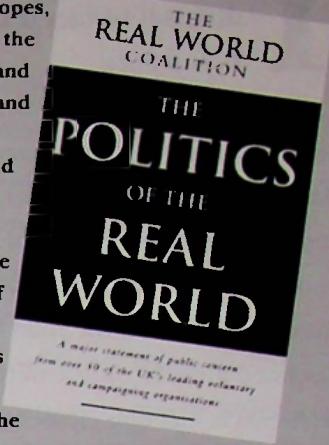
The book argues that the model must go - for two reasons. One is that any system that allows the rich to get richer while the poor get poorer (and 35,000 children die every day from hunger or preventable disease) is 'morally barbarous'. The other reason is that of self-interest, even for the rich, for unless we change course we face a future with environmental disasters looming, with social breakdown and fear of crime, and with the likelihood of increasing worldwide conflict as people compete desperately for fast diminishing natural resources.

The four main points of the campaign are:

- reform of our political system to end the present culture of secrecy, and make Parliament open and accountable to all;
- environmental sustainability globally;
- an integrated package of policies to reduce unemployment, poverty and inequality;
- a programme to arrest the declining quality of life, the loss of sense of community, and social exclusion.

J.E.M.

'Politics in the Real World' is published by Earthscan Publications Ltd, 120 Pentonville Road, London N1 9JN, in association with Real World. Price £6.99



# A NEW PARTNERSHIP FO

**T**oc H now has DDTs! No, it's not a disease: in fact it is quite the reverse. It is a cure.

Most readers of *Point three* know that the Central Executive Committee and the Senior Management of the Movement have had to undertake a radical review of all our Movement's resources and, through the actions subsequently taken, set Toc H on the road of renewal and sustained growth. Addressing our financial problems is just one element, and an important one at that. Far more important, however, is ensuring that our resources and especially our human resources, reduced though they may be, are directed and focused in such a way as to ensure the future of the Movement for many years to come. We all know that money alone will not guarantee this, and everything now rests on our ability, as one Movement together, to create the sort of Toc H work and activities that will once again put Toc H into people and draw people to Toc H.

This cannot be achieved by a handful of staff on their own who, at best, can only scratch the surface. If we are to see good-quality development work taking place in the name of Toc H then it has to be through our members that we achieve this, supported and enabled by the skills and talents that our staff can bring to bear out in the Divisions as well as those of Central Services in Wendover. I remind you that Toc H is a Movement of members and that therefore the future of our Movement is in your hands.

Despite what I have just said, it is self-evident that we will not achieve our goals if we exclude you, the lay members, from the planning and implementation processes in the Divisions. Furthermore, we will seriously jeopardise our aims if we continue down the path of centralisation, especially where the work of our

field staff is concerned. In order to assist this process and to ensure the full involvement of you, our members, in the positive development of Toc H work out there where it matters, the Regional Chairers in each of the three Divisions have been invited to set up a new partnership which we are calling Divisional Development Teams (DDTs).

Each Division will have its own Divisional Development Team which, in its fullest sense, will include lay Toc H members and also the staff within the Division. It will be the responsibility of the Regional Councils within the Divisions to determine the number of lay members and who they should be.

Meeting regularly, the Divisional Development Team will have overall responsibility for identifying opportunities to develop Toc H work, planning an overall strategy for development, implementation, the deployment of staff and other resources and, through a process of evaluation and monitoring, ensuring that the desired results are achieved. Whilst the line management of staff accountability will still rest with the Senior Managers at Central Services, I must stress that the day-to-day work and deployment of our staff resources will be in the hands of your own Divisional Development Team.

One of the consequences of this initiative is that our staff will be less involved in direct "hands on" work, but more involved in facilitating you, the members, in your branches and groups and indeed as individuals, to develop Toc H in practical ways in your communities. The Divisional Development Team (DDT) is wholly dependent on all of you bringing forward your creative ideas to develop service in the community, and all other Toc H activities.

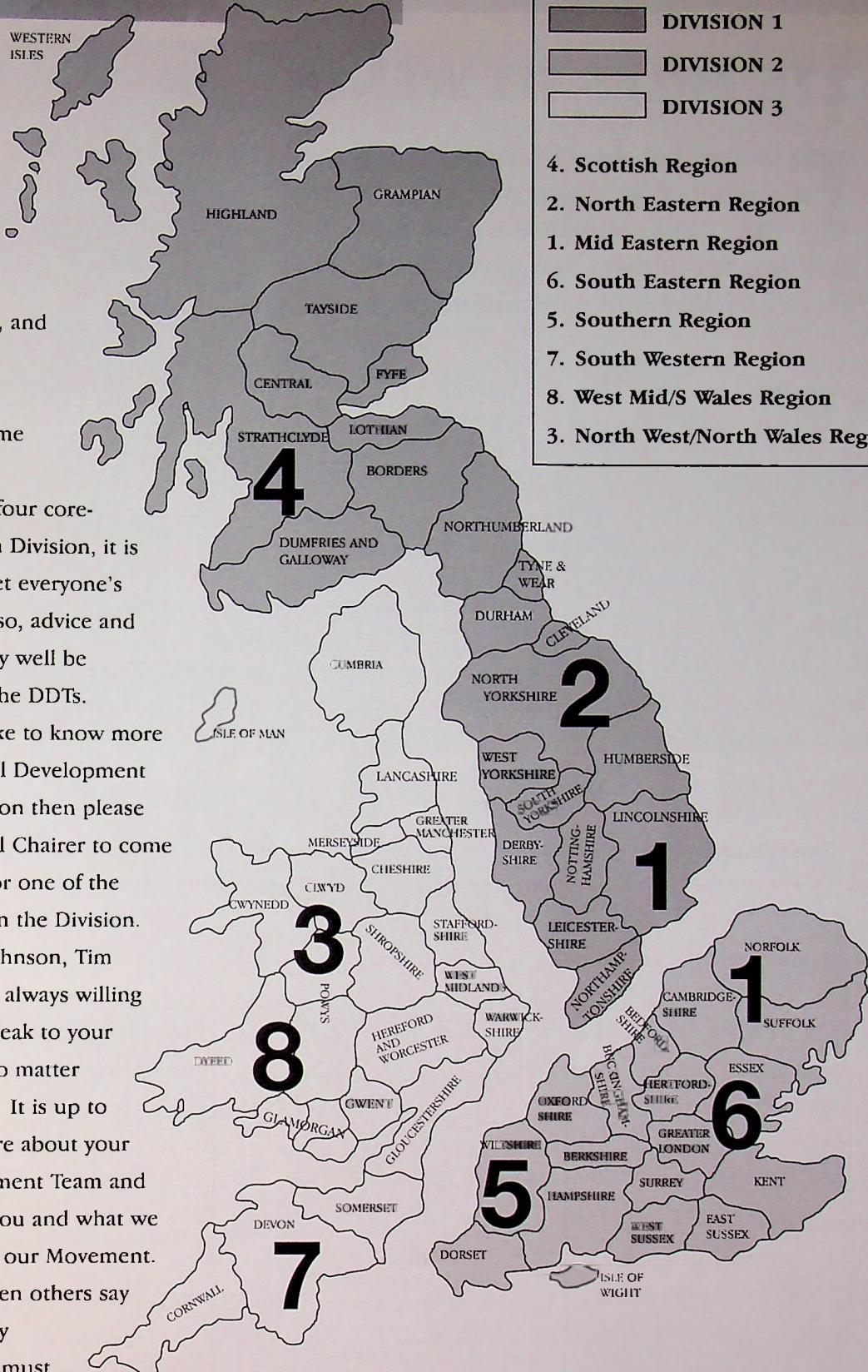
Even as I write, our Divisional Development Teams are being set up in Division 1 (which

# FOR THE FUTURE

roughly covers Scotland and the North East side of the country), Division 2 (which roughly covers the Western side of the country and Wales), and Division 3 (which roughly covers the South East, the Home Counties and mid-South). With only four core-funded staff in each Division, it is not possible to meet everyone's requests but, even so, advice and other resources may well be forthcoming from the DDTs.

If you would like to know more about the Divisional Development Team in your Division then please invite your Regional Chairer to come and speak to you, or one of the development staff in the Division. In addition, Alan Johnson, Tim Day, and myself are always willing to come out and speak to your group or branch, no matter how large or small. It is up to you to find out more about your Divisional Development Team and what it can do for you and what we together can do for our Movement. Remember, that when others say they can't, invariably they can - and we must.

MIKE LYDDIARD



## KEY

DIVISION 1

DIVISION 2

DIVISION 3

4. Scottish Region
2. North Eastern Region
1. Mid Eastern Region
6. South Eastern Region
5. Southern Region
7. South Western Region
8. West Mid/S Wales Region
3. North West/North Wales Region

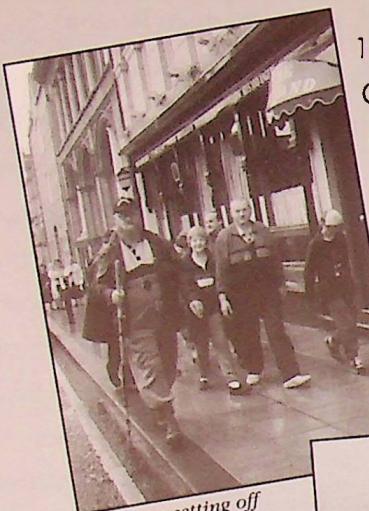
**'Britannia in tres partes divisa est'**  
(With apologies to Julius Caesar)

## 276 MILES TO WENDOVER - ON FOOT!!

**F**ootsore but cheerful, members and supporters of the New Tees Toc H Group arrived at Wendover on September 11th after a marathon relay sponsored walk - from Middlesbrough - in just TEN DAYS! Organised by Roger Howlett, their route took them through eight different counties, and local branches provided sustenance and encouragement along the way.

The last marathon sponsored walk reported in *Point three* was in 1974, when a group of members of the Toc H Birmingham Outward Group walked from London to Birmingham, in four days - but the New Tees Group has now well and truly smashed that record. Well done them!

The group would like to thank everyone who supported the walk, whether in practical ways or by sponsorship, or both. In our next issue we hope to give more of the 'inside story' of the walkers' experiences, and also to announce the amount raised.



*The team setting off from Webb House, Middlesbrough - waved off by members of Station branch*

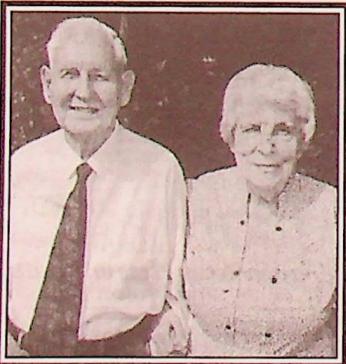


*'Boots made for walking' - on the wall at Wendover*



*Mission accomplished! The team is welcomed to Wendover by National Chairman, Mary Edwards (centre) and Director, Mike Iyddiard (far right - next to Roger Howlett, the organiser).*

### CONGRATULATIONS



To Wyn and Frank Howlett on their diamond wedding anniversary. Wyn and Frank were valued members of our staff team in Germany from 1971 to 1973, and then came back to the UK to be wardens of Alison House for several years before retiring to Dundee some seventeen years ago. They have since been active in Tayforth district.



Members and friends at a successful fundraising tea-party run by Ipswich Women's branch in July.  
Photo: Dorothea Turner

## BRANCH & PROJECT NEWS



The team of Toc H project volunteers who acted as stewards at the annual Summer Fayre of the Sobell House Hospice Charity in Oxford. Their community fundraiser, Marilyn Lloyd, writes that the Fayre raised £7,500 and added "a great big thank-you must go to the Toc H team who helped us so tirelessly throughout the day. Always happy and agreeable and willing to turn their hands to anything that needed to be done to keep the event running smoothly. They were both invaluable and a pleasure to have around." Local Toc H volunteers also ran a sideshow.

*Photo: Lucy Cole*

### CORRECTION AND APOLOGY

To Phil Watling, whom we unfortunately renamed Phil Watkins in October's branch news.

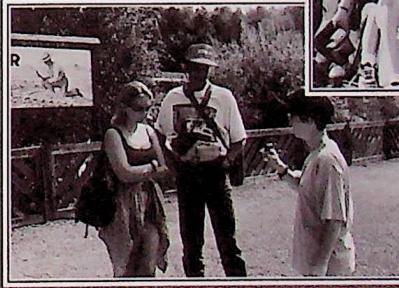
### BORDERS GET-TOGETHER

The annual get-together of Toc H in the Scottish Borders was held at Selkirk in September, when members, wives, and friends of the three Borders branches gathered for a social evening. During the evening a presentation was made to Pat Brownlee, who has just retired from the post of District Secretary after 17 years. Eddie Spiden of Jedburgh paid tribute to Pat's record of service, and a bouquet of flowers was presented to Pat's wife, Elsie, to thank her for her untiring support of Toc H activities

## THE HERFORD PLAYSHEME

The 1996 Toc H Herford Summer Playscheme was held between 19-30 August. The daily average attendance was 43 children between the ages of 5 and 9 years from Herford Station. There were seven UK volunteers, two volunteers from Herford, and two members of Toc H staff who cared for, supervised, and entertained the children during their fortnight.

The children were entertained with arts-and-craft days, cycling proficiency and road-study days, thrilling day trips out to 'Pott's Park Minden', Kalletal Animal Park, Dinosaur Park Munchenhausen, two swimming days (one at Im Kleinen Felde and one at 'Aqua Fun' Kirchlengern, swiftly rearranged due to inclement weather). All this was rounded off with a final sports and barbecue day, which again had to be rearranged for indoors because of the rain.



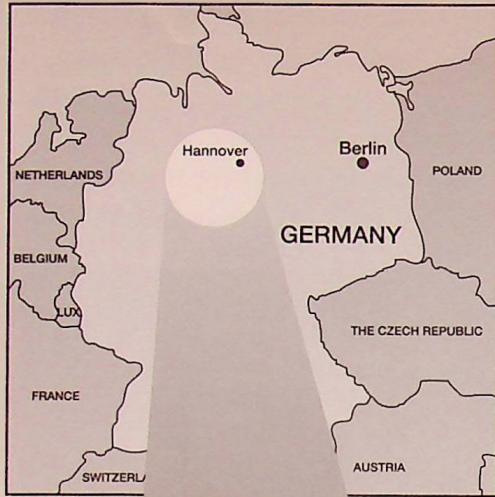
*I know the children are buried around here somewhere*



*Rock on!*

## BRANCH & PROJECT NEWS

# BEHIND THE SCENES



In this sixth part of Toc H 'behind the scenes', we look at the work of the staff at H.Q. in Herford. The Operations Manager, Paul Godley, is responsible for the work of our three Clubs in Herford, Münster, and Paderborn, and also for the work of the Development Officer, Jane Bridgeman.

## HEADQUARTERS GERMANY

Headquarters Germany is responsible for the overall management of Toc H Germany, which includes responsibility for the work and tasks of all the staff, administration for all the staff and centres, and managing all aspects of the Movement's financial matters. This includes the recording of income and expenditure, payment of invoices and control of tax matters involving the German authorities, as well as producing quarterly and annual accounts. Most importantly, it is responsible for developing Toc H in Germany not only amongst British service personnel and their families, but also amongst German nationals. The staff in the headquarters are:



*Paul & Iris*

### Operation Managers - Paul Godley

Paul began working for Toc H in 1989 after a very successful military career. He is married to Helma, who is German-born, and they have five children; Yana and Samantha are both married, and Scott and Maren are engaged to be married. Kaye, who is going to be 15 years old in November, is the only child left at home. Paul, who was appointed Operations Manager in November 1995, is a keen golfer.

### Senior Accounts Clerk - Iris Barlow

Iris began working for Toc H in March 1994. She is of German origin and married to Gary, who is a member of the Forces. Before marrying Gary, Iris lived in Swaziland, South Africa, and Germany. Her family has lived in Swaziland for 14 years and presently Iris's husband is on a peacekeeping tour of Bosnia.

### Accounts Assistant - Erica Gale

Erica, our part-time accounts assistant has just left us and we are seeking a successor.



# IT'S A LOTTERY

language interpreter required to translate the proceedings over the hum of the ceiling fans, and the vagaries of the bus timetable usurping the democratic process with a steady stream of people from various church and community groups exiting at regular intervals.

The ubiquitous Marler Haley boards were informative - it is always a trouble to know what to do with the carrying case. The National Lottery's North-Eastern representatives seemed to agree with me that shoving them in a crumpled heap behind the boards themselves tends to create a more homely atmosphere.

The discussions seldom rose beyond parochial concerns, but a number of interesting snippets were let slip. There were no answers forthcoming as to why from the £1 cost of a lottery entry only 28p goes to "good causes", and of that 28p only 5.6p actually goes to the Charities Board, which surely has a proportionally greater constituency than the Arts Council, Sports Council, Heritage Board or Millennium Commission. That the Charities Board's constituency is so large may well explain why only one in six applications to the Board is successful.

It was confirmed that it wasn't just that the applications didn't fulfil the criteria - more often than not they did - it was just a question of lack of funds. It was not entirely convincing listening to representatives from the same National Lottery that stuns us with a glittery show-business extravaganza every Saturday night, claiming poverty.

The Charities Board operates through banded applications relating to "themes". Future themes are

"New Opportunities And Choices", "Improving People's Living Environment", and "Community Involvement". Initially, themed applications were scheduled for three per year. It seems the Board has been overwhelmed by the weight of applications at each tranche. So the frequency is now to be twice yearly. Provisionally, the above themes are to be launched mid-November 1996, June 1997, and November 1997.

I raised the point that, because they are squeezing a mass of applications through in a short time, they *will* be overwhelmed. I also argued against a themed, tranches approach that makes eligibility for a majority of organisations a real lottery (I excused the pun), as their projects would have to be at the right stage of development, and in the right area of concern at the right time. I argued for a larger Charitable-Trust-style process based on the Board's excellent aims, in which applications are submitted and considered on a rolling process. It was argued that there were structural reasons against this - citing that the Board has not enough staff and indeed is organised "on the cheap" - his words, not mine!

Maybe, if the National Lottery people could inject as much enthusiasm and money into organising the Charities Board applications process as they do into Mystic Meg's stage set, and correct the imbalance between the Charities Board and the other 22 pence-worth of good causes, then five out of six local charities could be saying 'it could be them' with a great deal more certainty.

STUART WROE  
Fundraising Officer - Division 1

## **I**t could be you! Yet for five out of six applicants to the National Lottery's Charities Board, it won't be.

Along with some hundred others representing voluntary organisations across the North East, I made my autumnally chilly evening way to Hepscott Park, Northumberland County Council's conference centre off the bleak A1. The occasion was a National Lottery Charities Board Voluntary Sector Consultation Meeting.

As the National Lottery Charities Board comes to the end of its first year of grant giving, it is consulting the voluntary sector to inform on future grant-giving policies. The above meeting was one of four being undertaken in the North-East, and there is also a meeting for black and ethnic minorities groups arranged.

One of the joys of the voluntary sector is the relative priority placed on the domestic. Following introductions and a presentation on the background to the work of the National Lottery Charities Board in the North-East, areas for discussion were presented as the Application and Assessment Process, Policies, Themes and Future Priorities and "Other Issues". However, "Other Issues" quickly came to the fore with the acoustics of the hall being brought into question, a sign-

# Readers' Letters

## 'SOURCES OF HOPE'

Can I commend to your readers and fellow members two things that have recently encouraged me?

Firstly, the new Prayer Links scheme. Toc H was founded in prayer and founders without it. My own prayer continues to be that our Movement will focus ever more faithfully on "Jesus Christ and him crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:2), which is the heart of Christian faith and life and of the sacramental worship which nourished the life of Talbot House and our founder members.

Secondly, a book called "*The Bickersteth Diaries*" 1914-18 (Leo Cooper, London 1995) ed. John Bickersteth. The book is a selection of letters written by members of a family as they lived through the First World War. One of the family was a chaplain who records a visit to Talbot House and meeting with Tubby Clayton. A brother of his wrote after a visit to the Old House "*Truly the chapel is an oasis in a world gone crazy*" (p.207). The horrors and the humour of the war are movingly described. The book has given me a more vivid sense of the context in which our Movement was born and its purposes than anything else I have read.

Hope in the midst of horror is needed as much now as ever. It is still to be found at the same place as ever. May we in Toc H continue to discover such hope and to share it with our friends and neighbours.

DAVID MAYHEW  
Newcastle

## 'THE PORTADOWN MARCH'

The editorial in the September edition of *Point three* was characteristically stimulating but, whilst I entirely welcome and support the two concluding paragraphs, it is unlikely to cause much surprise that I feel, both as a Toc H builder and a member of the Northern Ireland Office for over twenty years, that I cannot allow the introductory paragraph to go without challenge.

The two decisions made by the RUC Chief Constable in July this year in respect of the Orange Order march in Portadown were wholly operational decisions and at no stage during the unhappy episode at Drumcree was the Chief Constable subject to political pressure. If I may quote Sir Hugh Annesley, speaking on BBC Radio on 14 July, he said, "There was no political interference with me, either at the beginning, in the middle, or at the end. There was no interference with me from the Northern Ireland Office, from the Prime Minister or from Dublin .... The decision here was based on public order, on security and on assessment grounds which were reasonable then,

they are reasonable now, they stand up to detailed examination."

It would be foolish to deny that the rule of law suffered a setback at Drumcree, but there is equally little doubt that, had the Chief Constable not taken the decision he did when he did, the scale of the setback to law and order would have been vastly greater, and lives would almost inevitably have been lost.

Very little that happens in Northern Ireland is simple, or can be subject to a simple and straightforward analysis. Ministers and Chief Constables are constantly faced with immensely difficult and sensitive decisions but, in their consideration of all such decisions, the operational independence of the Chief Constable of the RUC is scrupulously respected.

It is perhaps worth-while emphasising, too, that the Chief Constable's decisions about the Drumcree march were taken in circumstances where, despite strenuous efforts, no accommodation could be reached between the local residents and the Orange Order. The violence which so regrettably occurred serves to reinforce the Government's belief in the urgent need for dialogue through the multi-party talks currently in progress in an attempt to move away from these dreadful events to a peaceful settlement acceptable to all in Northern Ireland.

NOEL CORNICK

Head of Communications Strategy  
Stormont Castle, NI

## 'MIDDLESBROUGH TO WENDOVER'

I was in the company of a new participant in Toc H the other day.

"Isn't it a marvellous thing", she said "what these people from the New Tees Group are doing, walking from Middlesbrough to Wendover to raise money for Toc H?" I had to agree. But then she went on..... "I was at the local District meeting recently and learnt that a Branch had closed, which is sad. But do you know", she added, "they gave all their Branch funds away to other charities yet gave nothing to Family Purse! Why did they do that?"

Now I had to admit I didn't know the answer to this question. It does seem strange that relative newcomers to Toc H are prepared to go to great lengths (literally) for the Movement whilst long-standing members, who you would think would be very committed to Toc H, sometimes appear quite the reverse.

It defies logic, quite apart from the question of whether such actions as giving funds raised in the name of Toc H away to other organisations is misappropriation of funds and consequently unlawful. I'd value an explanation of such actions, just in case I need to explain it again in the future.

JOHN DUNWELL  
Development Officer - Div. 1, Bedale

# Human Tragedy as Spectator Sport

From the Director of Toc H

**Mindful of the fact that Toc H is a wide mixture of people, and that only a minority of our readers feel the need to read 'The Times' as well as 'Point three', we reprint here a letter from our Director which appeared in 'The Times' recently. Mike has received a large post-bag from interested individuals and organisations.**

**S**ir, It is rare, if ever, that a day passes without a report in your pages covering the unfolding of yet another human tragedy whether it is the plight of the civilian population in Chechnya, the terror of young children incarcerated in a Belgian cellar, or the stabbing of a priest in Liverpool.

Whilst politicians and so-called experts pronounce on what is wrong with our society and what is needed to reinculcate the traditional values and standards they believe we have lost, I am left wondering how long it will be before we, the ordinary people, follow the example of the late Rabbi Hugo Gryn (obituary, August 20; letter, August 22) and stand up to be counted on these issues.

Ironically it is often these same politicians and "experts" who are the ones to argue the case for further liberalism without, apparently, any thought to the consequences in terms

of the human misery that so often follows.

As we run up to the next general election here in the United Kingdom, the main political parties vie with each other to champion the cause of re-establishing moral standards and family values. But can they be believed? The examples that are given to us by leaders both here and overseas hardly lead one to this conclusion.

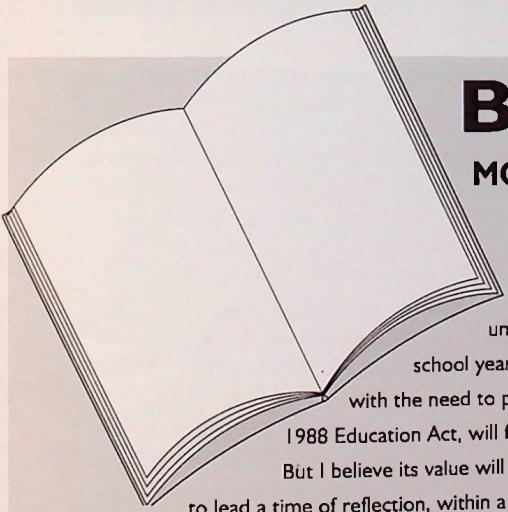
The media must also bear some responsibility for turning the sort of issues that I have referred to into what one might best describe as a spectator sport as far as the man in the street is concerned. No wonder that organisations like Toc H, endeavouring to uphold and promote through their work the values and standards that others say they yearn for, have to struggle to be heard.

Yours faithfully

MIKE LYDDIARD  
Director, Toc H

## BOOK REVIEW

### MOMENTS OF REFLECTION



**M**ike Walton, former member of the Toc H staff, together with colleague Jean Howarth, has produced a book of readings used in daily worship within the school at which they teach. This has now been published under the title *Moments of Reflection*. There's a different theme for each week of the school year, with readings for each year group within a secondary school. Any teacher faced with the need to produce acts of worship in a small group rather than at assembly to comply with the 1988 Education Act, will find this book invaluable.

But I believe its value will prove to be far wider than its specific target audience. Any of us faced with the need to lead a time of reflection, within a branch or on a project, will find this a real resource. A few of the readings seem to me too sentimental for use with an adult group - indeed I wonder what the children will make of them. Some of the readings and comments are very specifically addressed to the school situation. But most of them are much more general in their application.

Many of the themes reflect Mike's experience of Toc H - some of the headings indeed are taken direct from *Joyful Journey*. If the source of most of the readings is Christian, there are also contributions from other religious traditions and the whole is imbued with the recognition in the words of one reading, that "our spirituality doesn't show itself only when we pray, meditate or go to church. Spirituality is much wider and deeper than that. Nearly everything we do is a reflection of the presence or absence of a spiritual dimension in our lives." The whole collection is earthed, as all true religion must be, in real human experience. Warmly commended.

Ken Prideaux-Brune

*Moments of Reflection* is published by Heinemann Education, Price £16.99 ISBN 0 435 30243 4



**T**he World Chain of Light has been an annual event since it was first initiated by Toc H Australia in 1926. One of the most moving occasions was in 1944, when Tubby Clayton was able to lead the observance in the newly liberated Talbot House. We are happy to be able to print extracts from a letter to his

# THE WORLD CHAIN

parents from the Revd Vincent Castle, an Army Chaplain, written in late 1944. We are indebted to Ron Fairman (Central Branch) for sending this to us.

"I had an invitation to go down to Poperinge to be present at the Anniversary celebrations of Toc H. As you know, Toc H started in December 1915 at Talbot House in Poperinge. Past its door marched four and half millions of men on their way to the Front:

The house is a large one, with the various rooms used for reading; writing; library; quiet room. Upstairs there is the large attic which was rigged up as a chapel. The altar is a carpenter's bench (very appropriate) which was found in the garden of the house when the

place was first started. Then of course since then there have been a lot of additions to the chapel by various formations. The Guards gave the altar frontal; the Canadians gave one of the two large wooden candlesticks, while the Australians gave the other. There is also the original tiny harmonium which "Tubby" Clayton (the founder padre) used to take around with him in a motor-cycle sidecar.

To be in that chapel was indeed to be upon holy ground, for over one hundred thousand men worshipped there - many of them having gone forth from there to pass from war to peace in Higher Service.

Well now I get back to last Monday. I arrived there and found that "Tubby" Clayton had just managed to get there before me. It

## Tributes

*We announce, with regret, the death of the following members:*

**AUGUST:** Mary Richardson, Hitchin / 'Jimmie' Seymour, Ouse & Hull / Arnold Wheaton, late Bristol.

**SEPTEMBER:** Olive Child, late Richmond / Herbert Goffin, North Walsham / Mabel Harriman, Melton Mowbray / 'Margo' Hawkins, Great Yarmouth / Frederick Heath, Springfields / Harold Morgan, Nailsea / Leslie Nettleton, Haywain District / Mary Palmer, Rushden / Gordon Parry, Wolverton / William Weir, Middlesbrough.

**NOT PREVIOUSLY RECORDED:**

Jean Riley, Netherall.

**Gordon Parry**, who passed away on Thursday September 5th, was a member of Wolverton branch for 38 years, and was Secretary for most of that period. He will be sadly missed by people in Wolverton. EM

Bill Weir joined Middlesbrough branch in 1927 when he was in the Merchant Navy, and Toc H met him in ports worldwide. The Branch was one of

the founders of the Blood Transfusion Service when members were collected in the Black Maria by the police and blood was given direct to a patient. Appropriately when he died, at the grand age of 86, he was the Branch Pilot and only a few hours before had been speaking at the Branch and visiting the sick. There was a large attendance of many representatives of local charities at his service. NC

# OF LIGHT - PAST AND PRESENT

was such a tremendous thrill for him to be back in the place where he had inaugurated the Movement in 1915, that I thought he would be overcome with excitement. Needless to say he was overjoyed to find that all the original furnishings of the House, and especially the chapel, had been preserved from the hands of the Germans by the faithful people of Poperinge. One man had served a sentence of eight months imprisonment on account of having helped to conceal some of the valued furnishings. The old carpenter's bench, the Guards altar frontal, the big candlesticks were all there - much to everyone's delight.

The 11th being the actual anniversary of the opening of the House in 1915, there was held the Toc H "World Chain of Light", when

each branch of Toc H throughout the world lights its own Toc H lamp at nine p.m. by its own time - with the result that for a complete twenty-four hours there is a chain of light going right round the world, with everyone's thoughts turning towards the original start of Toc H - the House at Poperinge.

It was a great joy and privilege to be present, and to help afterwards to keep the vigil with "Tubby" Clayton until midnight. Then at 8.00am the following morning I was further privileged to assist him at the Celebration of Holy Communion. One felt the influence of the many fine padres and others who had worshipped there in the First World War."

*Vincent Castle, Chaplain,  
131 Lorried Infantry Brigade  
7th Armoured Division*

**Mary Richardson**, who died on August 26th 1996, was a valued member of Hitchin Women's Branch. She had been a member for 14 years and contributed greatly to the life of the Branch and we shall miss her company and fellowship. PP

We are sad to report the death of Grace Heard, in September. Grace was a member of Chelmsford LWH branch until the outbreak of war, during which she worked with the WVS and the ARP, as well as bringing up three children. She was a founder-member of Chelmsford W branch and held most offices at branch and district level. With her late husband, Charles, she initiated the Stockmen's Rest Tent at the Essex County Show, which continued for many years. She remained active in Toc H after moving to Lincolnshire, and played a major part during the Toc H W.A. campaign for drug control. Aged 91 at her death, she had followed the ideals of Toc H for over 65 years, and will be sadly missed.

Wolverhampton members are very sad to report the death of Agnes Jean Braine, in September. She had been a member for 50 years, and held office many times. She was a very caring member, always ready to support and help. Ever since the local Cheshire Home opened, she had befriended a resident whom she visited every Saturday morning for over 40 years. Jean was the widow of another long-serving member, Horace (Norman) Braine, whom she met on war service in Ilfracombe. Although her health had not been good recently, she had been dancing in the week in which she died, and had just returned from a day's outing, so her death was a great shock and she will be sadly missed. MP

Jean Riley, who died in June, was a loyal and valued member of Netherhall Women's branch, in Leicester. She was a very active member until illness forced her to leave us. She is sadly missed. BF

**T**his year the World Chain of Light starts in the UK at Prideaux House, Hackney. As usual, a vigil is to be held starting at 9.00pm on 11th December, and concluding 24 hours later. Branches in the UK are expected to hold their own observances on the 11th, and branches in other parts of the world light their lamps at 9.00pm local time, throughout the 24 hour-period.

Those wishing to be part of the Prideaux House event are asked to seek more details from:

**JOHN BURGESS,**  
*66 Park Meadow, Hatfield, Herts  
AL9 5HB. Tel: 01707 264949*

or from:

**REVD GUALTER DE MELLO,**  
*Prideaux House, 10 Church  
Crescent, Hackney, London  
E9 7DL. Tel: 0181 986 6000*

## **TALBOT HOUSE, POPERINGE needs Honorary Wardens for 1997**

The main duties of volunteer Wardens at Talbot House are:  
to assist the staff during the day (minding souvenir shop, making tea for visitors...),  
be available after office hours (answering phone enquiries, greeting new arrivals...)  
and generally making sure residents and visitors are happy.

A daily expense allowance is payable, together with travel costs.

Wardens are still needed for: 15-28 February, March, June and 16 Nov - 15 Dec.

Members who are interested in volunteering for one of the above periods, or who would like more information, please write or telephone to:

Martine Boone, Admin/Liaison Officer, Talbot House, Gasthuisstraat 43

B-8970 Poperinge, Belgium. Tel: 0032/57 33 32 28

### **TOC H CAROL SERVICE AT ALL HALLOWS CHURCH**

Saturday 14 December at 2.30pm  
For further details please contact:

Connie Pring, 39 Princes Plain,  
Bromley Common,  
Kent BR2 8LH

Tel: 0181 462 8164 (after 7pm)

### **TOC H LINDRIDGE HOUSE LINDRIDGE HILL, KINGSTEIGNTON, DEVON**

Set in three acres of rolling Devon hillside, this converted farmhouse offers self-catering accommodation for up to 13 people.

For further details contact:

THE CENTRE MANAGER,  
LINDRIDGE HOUSE  
LINDRIDGE HILL, KINGSTEIGNTON  
NEWTON ABBOT, DEVON, TQ12 3QE

### **The TOC H Annual Lecture on Reconciliation**

to be delivered by **Kate Adie**

Chief News Correspondent, BBC Newsgathering

on Wednesday 11 December 1996 at **The Liberal Jewish Synagogue**  
St John's Wood, London NW  
at 7 pm (arrivals from 6.15 pm)

**All Welcome** Entrance by ticket only.

Please apply to:

John Biggerstaff, TOC H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover,  
Aylesbury, Bucks. HP22 6BT Tel: 01296 623911



*Bringing people together*

Registered charity number 211042

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